

KINGS BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday, 12th August, 2009 at 7.45 pm
Kings Bromley Village Hall

Present:- Cllr I M P Pritchard (Chair); Cllr S R Browne; Cllr Mrs M K Gair;
Cllr Mrs P Jarman; Cllr G C Seddon; Cllr W A Taylor

In attendance: Mrs S Buxton (Clerk); 2 members of the public

Issues raised during the public session

- Good result in the BKV competition was noted
- Buses – is the bus service being maintained at its current level?
- Manhole covers outside Chamberlain Close - grass has been cut and barriers have been removed so the ironwork is exposed again
- Crawley Lane – when it rains heavily the road becomes flooded and all the gulleys are blocked between the corner by the dog bin and Woodgate
- War Memorial – Charles Jarman would very happy to get some help from Mike Gair with the borders around the memorial
- Mobile Youth Bus – query about why Crawley Lane chosen and how long it is here for and whether it could be brought to the village in future?

3653. Apologies

Cllr S Holland – family bereavement

Agreed that the apologies of Cllr Holland be accepted

3654. Declaration of Interests

Changing Lives – Cllr Mrs Jarman

Health and Safety – Cllr Pritchard, provision of high visibility vests

3655. Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July, 2009 be signed as a true and correct record

3656. Report of the Clerk

- i. **Dog Bin Crawley Lane** - the clerk reported that following the site meeting between the parish council, Horticultural Society and LDC, the bin had been installed just the top side of the bottom gate into the show field. She had since received a report that it was being well used
- ii. **Grasscutting contract** - the clerk reported that she had spoken to Mr Hodson Walker and he has promised to send a copy of his public liability insurance for retention on the council records
- iii. **Map adjacent to the War Memorial** - Mr Clarke has notified the clerk that he hopes to reinstate the board shortly
- iv. **Play equipment** - following the informal brainstorming session by councillors the clerk is now in the process of obtaining a number of proposals for an additional piece of play equipment for the rear of the Village Hall. The design from Aberaeron is not available in metal, but the

chairman reported the company would be happy to come out to see the site and design something specific to meet our needs in wood if required.

- v. **Bus service** – it was noted that no change to the existing service is expected in Kings Bromley at present

3657. Finance

- i. **Finance Report to 31st July, 2009**

Agreed to note the content of the finance report to 31st July, 2009 and that the clerk would resolve the discrepancy of £17 on the bank reconciliation prior to the next meeting

- ii. **Payments to be made**

Agreed that the following payment be approved in retrospect as a cheque had been signed since the last meeting following discussion between the chairman and the clerk:-

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
26/300133	Sharp Landscapes	202.00	Two grass cuts	
	TOTAL	202.00		

Agreed that the following payments be made:-

<i>Vch/Chq</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Powers</i>
27/300134	Mrs S Buxton	364.72	Salary and taxable expenses	
27/300135	Mrs S Buxton	9.60	Travel expenses (non taxable)	
27/300135	Mrs S Buxton	1.75	Laminating	
27/300136	SCC	72.46	Pension contributions	
28/300137	KBVH	5.15	Extra meeting 25/6/09	
29/300137	KBVH	5.15	Extra meeting 27/7/09	
30/300138	Sharp Landscapes	202.00	Grasscutting	
	TOTAL	660.83		

- iii. **Receipts**

None

3658. Correspondence and Items for Information

- i. **John Taylor High School** - letter of thanks for donation towards presentation evening
- ii. **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006** – this came into force on 1st October, 2006 and states that “every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the conserving of biodiversity”
- iii. **Mobile Youth Bus** - SCC are bringing the mobile Youth Bus to Kings Bromley on four Monday evenings during the summer
- iv. **Bakers Lane access to phone and post boxes** – the clerk had received a comment that the road was often blocked.
Agreed the clerk will check whether it is private or not as councillors believe it is part of the public highway
- v. **Manor Park Quarry** - the clerk has received a letter from the Environment Agency re: inspection of the bunds. The last inspection was done on 15th August, 2008 and the comments noted were “there was some vegetation cover on the bunds with some minor rabbit activity, this

therefore made it a fair condition. The recommendations are to monitor at next inspection for any condition change to the bunds. This next inspection will be due in 2010. The clerk has also received copies of correspondence from a Manor Park residence who has raised concerns re: the integrity of the bunds with SCC and in particular the effects of the rabbits and seeking confirmation that the permission for the winning of sand and gravel expires on 31st December, 2014.

Agreed the clerk to write to the Environment Agency noting the comments regarding their last inspection, but expressing concern about the extent of the rabbit activity which can currently be seen in the bunds.

- vi. **Lichfield Mercury Village News** – this has now been introduced and Mrs Kate Bellamy is the correspondent
- vii. **Quarrying** - the clerk has received information from Mrs Anderson at Orgreave on the Alrewas West and Bancroft Farm sites which has been circulated to councillors and will be placed on the noticeboards and also notification of a walk around the Alrewas West site on Sunday, 27th September, 2009, starting at 2.45 pm at the Show Field
Agreed the clerk would include this in the parish magazine and Lichfield Mercury
- viii. **WMRSS Phase III Revision Deadline 14/8/09** an email has also been received from a resident urging everyone to respond as this has some important rural issues covered which are vital to village living, and is not just about quarrying
- ix. **Telephone Box** – this is to be taken out of service due to lack of use and there is an opportunity to adopt it for £1.
Agreed the clerk would find out more information about what will happen to the telephone box if it is not adopted by the parish council and report to the September meeting
- x. **Water tankers coming through Kings Bromley** – it was reported that a large number of Aqua Direct tankers are travelling through the village from Seedy Mill and down the Alrewas Road to the A38. Why do they have to come through Kings Bromley when they could access the A38 by using Wood End Lane and thereby avoid a residential area?
Agreed the clerk would contact Seedy Mill and ask for their comments on this activity
- xi. **Review of Clerk's log**

3677. Highways and Signs

- i. **Community Gangs**
Agreed that the following items were reported as requiring attention by Highways:-
 - one of the bollards is missing off one of the build outs on Alrewas Road
 - the Wood End Lane sign at the junction with the A515 has been broken off and is leaning against the fence
- ii. **30 mph stickers for bins** – it was reported that the 30 mph stickers on the bins in Milford had been provided by SCC and they would be willing to provide them in Kings Bromley. They can be placed on main arterial routes, so both the A513 and A515 would probably be suitable in Kings Bromley, although there may be some limitations on the Alrewas Road

where there are already speed calming measures in place. The intention is that they have to be placed on all wheelie bins not odd ones. There is a formal application process and then letters and the stickers are issued to all houses on the agreed routes. The distribution of the stickers and letters can be organised by either SCC, the local PCSO or members of an active Community Speedwatch team.

Agreed the council would go ahead and make a request to SCC for 30 mph stickers to be provided for all three bins for houses in Alrewas Road, Yoxall Road and Lichfield Road, and that the clerk would contact the Speedwatch Co-ordinator to see if he would be happy to take responsibility for the distribution.

iii. **National Highway and Transportation Survey** – this is a survey which is being carried out by 70 authorities across the country

Agreed the clerk would complete this on behalf of the parish council

iv. **Flashing speed signs** – it was reported that in Nottinghamshire they have more interactive signs, now there are two more interactive signs in Armitage which show the speed you are travelling, but they are not there all the while

Agreed that the chairman will make enquiries about the interactive speed signs in Armitage and whether they could be used in Kings Bromley

v. **Crawley Lane Gulleys** - the gulleys which run from the lane to the ditch are blocked and need digging out between the bend by the dog bin and Woodgate Farm

Agreed the clerk will speak to the land owner and SCC to see who is responsible for keeping these gulleys open

vi. **Manhole Covers outside Chamberlain Close** – when the grass was cut, the barriers were moved away but they have not been put back, so once again some of the manhole covers are now exposed and dangerous

Agreed the clerk would contact SCC regarding the reinstatement of the barriers and enquire when the work would be undertaken

3678. Health and Safety Policy

Agreed the council would adopt the Health and Safety Policy which had been prepared by the clerk and Cllr Mrs Gair

Agreed to express thanks to the clerk and Cllr Mrs Gair for their work on this project

Agreed that when the council appoints contractors the clerk will send them the relevant parts of the policy and ask them to return a reply slip stating that they had received a copy of the policy

Agreed that the clerk will draft a risk assessment form for the next parish council meeting

Agreed that all contractors be asked if they have a standard risk assessment for the work they are undertaking and if so, to supply a copy to the council, and if not the clerk will ensure that the parish council's standard risk assessment is completed

Agreed that all councillors and the clerk should have a high visibility vest for use during outdoor meetings etc, such as inspection of trees and looking at highway matters and that Cllr Pritchard will provide these at cost, bringing a selection to the next parish council meeting

The need for a First Aid Kit was discussed but not resolved.

3679. Trees

- i. **Quotation for tree works** – a new report with all three quotations detailed was tabled at the meeting to replace the report which had previously been circulated to councillors
Agreed that Quote A be accepted for all works except the hedges (one by open space on Leofric Close and one at entrance to Leofric Close), if all the work can be completed within two days and the charge made on the day rate, and as the advice provided on the lime tree seems to be the most appropriate, the removal of the two lowest lateral branches. This was proposed by Cllr Seddon and seconded by Cllr Mrs Gair. The total cost will be a maximum of £1,300 plus VAT.
The clerk informed the council that the earmarked reserve built up over the last three years had £1,648 in which would cover the costs of Mr Helliwell's report and the tree surgeon's work.
- ii. **Hedges** – quotes have been received from all three tree surgeons and from the council's grasscutting contractor.
Agreed that the council's grass cutting contractor be asked to cut the privet hedge at the entrance to Leofric Close and then remove all the weeds and briars and trim the hedge by the open space in Leofric Close at a cost of £140. This work could then be done on an annual basis as part of the council's grass cutting contract.
- iii. **Possible damage to the adjacent drive** - the clerk reported that following a request of a resident she and the chairman had looked at the drive and noticed a slight lifting of the tarmac which may or may not be a result of the root growth from the lime tree or adjacent ash tree. Mr Helliwell had not noticed any particular problems with this tree during his inspection and recommended no work, but had not looked at the drive specifically. All three tree surgeons who had quoted for the work had been asked to look at this tree in view of the concern of the resident about the drive and give their view on whether the damage was caused by any of the trees and whether the lime tree which is the closest tree needed any work doing. Only one tree surgeon commented on the minor lifting of the driveway and said that without excavating the drive it was impossible to say which tree was causing the problem.
Agreed that in having the ash tree which overhangs the conservatory of this property removed, along with two branches of the lime tree taken down, including one which overhangs the garage of the property, the council is carrying out the work which could affect Mr Harrison's property
- iv. **Insurance** – the clerk had discussed the issue of any possible damage to Mr Harrison's drive with the insurance company and whether a claim could be made under the council's public liability insurance
- v. **Application for Tree Works** – the clerk reported that J Tonks Tree Surgery had made an application to LDC for the work on the trees on behalf of the parish council without being requested to do so. LDC make no charge for such an application and when the process is completed it can be used by any contractor
- vi. **Hole in Leofric Close Open Space** - the clerk reported that she had requested Sharp Landscapes to fill in the hole on the open space which

she and the chairman had noticed at the time they had visited to inspect the trees.

3681 Village Hall

It was reported that the treasurer who had volunteered and had now decided to stand down and an advertisement will appear in the parish magazine. There will be a meeting of the working party who are now running the village hall on 14th September, 2009

3682 Best Kept Village Competition

It was reported that Kings Bromley had won the large village section for Lichfield District but not the overall trophy which had been won by Edingale
Agreed the council express their thanks to Alan Howard for co-ordinating this years campaign

Agreed to note that Cllr Browne had attended the Best Kept Village Presentation in Stafford, travelling there by bus which had taken over an hour and a half.

3683 Social Services – Changing Lives

Nothing to report

3684 Lichfield District Council

- i. **Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment. Request for Parish Council feedback on evidence and standards which will be used to inform the policies within the emerging Core Strategy up to 2021 –** LDC are happy to receive comments on this document following tonight's meeting despite the deadline having passed, but the clerk had been unable to locate the document on the website
Agreed the clerk would speak to LDC re: access to this document and let councillors know so that they could individually decide if they felt the council should respond
- ii. **Summer Play Scheme –** the clerk reported that LDC Play Rangers were visiting KB three times during the summer, but she was unaware of what publicity there had been of these visits

3685 Staffordshire County Council

Nothing to report

3686 SPCA

- i. -----**Lichfield Area Committee –** a meeting has been called for Thursday, 24th September, 2009 at Kings Bromley Village Hall. The clerk expressed concern about the emailed invitation from the SPCA to all LDC district parish councils which was rather brief and not very inviting
Agreed that the clerk and Cllr Mrs Jarman would put together a Welcome to Kings Bromley letter, highlighting the reasons why the parish council feels the re-establishment of this committee is important, which the clerk would email to all parish councils
Agreed Kings Bromley Parish Council will provide coffee and biscuits for the meeting

- ii. ----**Training** – the clerk had circulated details of forthcoming training sessions to all councillors

3687 Review of Items for Future Meetings

- i. **Broadband speeds** – discussion on rates advertising which are simply not achievable and the impact on rural communities

3688 Date of Next Meeting

Agreed that the next meeting be held on Wednesday, 9th September, 2009, at 7.45 pm at the Village Hall, Alrewas Road, Kings Bromley

There being no other business, the chairman closed the meeting at 9.16 pm